

## 26.—KRAIT'S METHOD OF DEFENCE AGAINST CAT.

I give the following account of a Krait's method of defence against cat and hope you will find it interesting, if not new.

Soon after dark on the 29th ultimo children playing in our garden came hurrying to me and—told me that a cat was playing with a snake in the garden. I rushed to the spot and saw a Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) tightly coiled up and hiding its head under its coils, while our pet cat was trying to uncoil it. The reptile was feigning death, and so motionless did it lie that I was prone to doubt if it was alive, though its tight coils indicated that it was anything but dead. I touched it with a stick and satisfied myself that it was very much alive. The cat lost almost all interest as the krait lay quiet and did not give her battle. However, I forced the reptile to show its head which excited the feline's interest. The cat evidently wanted to crush her enemy's head, but the latter was extremely careful not to expose its delicate but deadly part of its body. As the contest was proving tedious I forcibly uncoiled the snake and pressed it by its neck with a stick, whereupon the wriggling—mass of its body immediately curled round the—stick. This new development excited the cat's interest and she caught per prey by its tail and gave it a nasty pull. I soon let go the snake—hoping that a real fight might now ensue, but to my great disappointment the krait again went into tight coils hiding its head effectively and so—the cat again lapsed into inactivity. I killed the krait—which measured exactly two feet.

Conceding that the Common Krait is timid by temperament it looks a little strange it did not make the slightest attempt to bite the cat, nor did it resort to hissing. I think the reptile's passive resistance was remarkable, while our pet cat distinguished herself by her 'sporting' spirit in so far as she disdained to strike an opponent who would not retaliate.

80 A, KURLA ROAD,  
ANDHERI, BOMBAY.  
8th October, 1946.

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## 27.—ADDITIONS TO 'THE LIST OF BUTTERFLIES OF THE SIMLA HILLS' PUBLISHED IN VOL. XLI, NO. 4 (SEE ALSO VOL. XLV, NO. 2).

287. *Lethe nicetas*, Hew. ♂ Baghi, 9,000', September.

77. *Maniola lupinus cheena* M. ♂ ♀ Nachar, 7,000'. July. (See note in Vol. XLV, No. 2).

288. *Ypthima inica*, Hew. ♀ Chandigarh, 2,000', 12/11. This butterfly seems to be abundant in parts of the Punjab and may possibly be common at the foot of the hills. On the wing it is very like *Y. asterope* and may easily have been overlooked.

289. *Limenitis trivena hydaspes*, M. ♂ Pangri, 9,500', June. This is a very different butterfly from *L. trivena pallida*, the race that is so common